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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Reduced traffic helped with intersection project

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Feeding Hills Center construction project has neared an end with a few cosmetic details left to be done. The construction commenced during COVID-19 and engineers and construction workers were able to carry on working while taking precautions.

Engineer Michelle Chase explained that workers wore masks when working within six feet of each other, there were washing stations set up, workers communicated well with each other, and were very vigilant about washing their hands and staying safe on site. “It was challenging at times, but we followed the MassDOT and state guidelines to get the work done,” Chase said. “There wasn’t too big of an impact at the office as we worked remotely from March to June, but we were able to assist people when needed.”

This was a state project and

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The Feeding Hills reconstruction project has neared its end. Only cosmetic updates remain for the project. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Free testing continues to be offered in Western Mass.

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – While testing has ended in Agawam, there are still locations close by where area residents can go for COVID-19 testing.

The state and the City of Holyoke asked Holyoke Community College if the college could house a COVID testing site, and they agreed. The free testing at the HCC campus is being served as a drive through station for all residents.

The campus has been offering testing since Aug. 26 and the city’s board of health has extended the test site to Oct. 31. Though the site was supposed to stop running on Sept. 12 it was extended to the end of September and extended again to the end of October.

The tests are being conducted as drive through tests outside

HCC’s Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation, the testing will be done by the Fallon Ambulance in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The testing is available six days a week at different times to accommodate different schedules people may have.

Testing will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis with no appointments, costs, or referrals needed. Testing hours include 7-11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday; and 2-7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. HCC asks people to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue and follow the signs to M lot, where the in-car testing will be held. The results from testing will typically come in within four days.

Those headed to the HCC campus don’t have to worry about

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City council meeting canceled due to technical difficulties

AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council meeting that was set for Monday, Sept. 21 was canceled due to technical difficulties at the meeting site. Councilors were scheduled to return to Agawam Junior High School, the normal site of meetings

over the past couple of years.

Due to the pandemic, meetings were held in alternate locations, such as the Agawam Senior Center, as well as via conference call and other virtual meeting methods.

The council has been meeting

in person during July and August.

All matters on the Sept. 21 agenda will be moved to the next meeting, which is currently scheduled for Monday, Oct. 5. No special meetings have been scheduled as press time.

Cell tower public hearing continued to Monday, Sept. 28

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Zoning Board of Appeals held multiple meetings to address the application for a variance and special permit for the installation of a Verizon Wireless cell tower. The installation of the wireless telecommunications facility would be at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course at 128 Southwick Street.

The board was to address Verizon for a cell tower, in a meeting on Monday Sept. 14 over Zoom. The meeting started and the board was able to address one

article before everyone in attendance was kicked from the online meeting. The board rescheduled the meeting and discussion to Friday Sept. 18.

The chair Doreen Prouty explained that the board needs to make a motion to continue the cases to Monday Sept. 28.

“It was a disaster last night - Sept. 14 - it was awful and I hope we fix it by the next meeting,” Prouty said. “A Verizon representative will be present at the Monday Sept. 28 meeting, as we haven’t heard from the independent contractor or our technology consultant.”

The board wouldn’t have been able to make a decision on this action even if the Monday meeting had went smoothly. At the Friday meeting Prouty made a motion to continue the discussion of the variance and special permit to Monday Sept. 28, the motion was seconded and the board voted in favor to continue the hearing.

The continued meeting will be held on Zoom on Monday Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m. The board hopes to speak to Verizon representatives in order to come to a conclusion on the special permit and variance.



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Deadline set for connection installation

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam’s Department of Public Works has announced that Friday, Nov. 6 will be the last day to apply for road opening permits for the installation of water, sewer, or drain connections that have to be installed by the Town.

All connections applied for after the deadline will be installed in the spring of 2021.

This notice does not apply to connection which have been previously installed to the property line of an existing property.

HCC celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 25-Oct. 28

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month during this pandemic year with a series of on-line events that includes cooking demonstrations, lectures on the ethnic and political history of Holyoke, exhibits and conversations on public art, and a student panel examining the shared heritage of Black and Latinx people. Beginning Friday, Sept. 25, four members of the HCC community will share favorite recipes highlighting their ethnic heritage, followed by question and answer sessions with the chefs. Raúl Gutiérrez, associate professor of Spanish and coordinator of HCC’s Latinx Studies program, will kick off the cooking series on Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. He will be followed by Harold Santiago, special program coordinator in HCC’s Admissions office on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 11 a.m.; HCC student Liuginsa Rosa on Monday, Oct. 5 at 1:30 p.m.; and HCC math instructor Aida Mediano on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 11 a.m.

“Each of the four cooks represents a different nationality,” said Derek Estrella, an HCC Financial Aid counselor and secretary for the college’s Hispanic Leadership Committee, which organized the Heritage Month events. “Raúl is Mexican, Harold is Puerto Rican, Liuginsa is Dominican and Aida Peruvian. I’m also asking them to share a signature song they grew up with while cooking.”

Also on Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 6 to 8 p.m., the public is invited to share their ideas for “El Corazón de Holyoke: Comenzamos!” (The Heart of Holyoke: Let’s Begin), kicking off a new phase of public art installations that celebrate Latinx and Puerto Rican artists and culture in the city.

On Wednesday, Sept 30, from 11 a.m. to noon, Holyoke resident and HCC alumna Maria Cartagena, Five College community partnerships coordinator, will present “History of Holyoke - Political Landscape,”focusing on the ethnic, cultural and political influence of Hispanics in the city.



An HCC student holds up flags from Mexico and Paraguay during a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on campus in October 2019. SUBMITTED PHOTO

The “El Corazón de Holyoke” conversation continues on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 6-8 p.m. with “Cultural Place-keeping and the ‘salsa’ of Public Art,” a presentation and Q&A with cultural districts program manager Luis Cotto from the Mass Cultural Council; Springfield Poet Laureate Magdalena Gómez; and interdisciplinary artist Shey Rivera Rios.

HCC’s Hispanic Leadership Committee, a newly formed group of HCC staff and faculty involved in campus and community engagement activities, will hold an online session on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. introducing themselves to the college and wider Holyoke community.

The college’s Hispanic Heritage Month’s activities will conclude with “Anti-blackness in the Hispanic Community” on Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a student panel discussion examining racial bias as well as the shared heritage of Black and Latinx people. The panel will consist of members from two HCC student clubs, the Black Student Alliance and the Latinx Empowerment Association, and moderated by Rockell Bartoli, a Miami-based author and student-success coach.

All events will be held on Zoom. They are free and open to the public but pre-registration is required. To register, please visit hcc.edu/hhm.

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A musical voyage through American history

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series will offer a bonus mid-month performance that was originally scheduled for this past Spring but cancelled due to the pandemic shutdown.

On Friday, Oct. 16 Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle will bring their American Pop Music Time Machine 1855-1965 to the Applause Series. Their videotaped performance will be presented on the Town of Agawam’s public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7:00 pm and streamed from the “Watch” button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance. There is a three-hour window from 7:00 – 10:00 pm when the approximate one-hour program will be available. It is recommended that viewers begin watching no later than 8:45 pm.

The American Pop Music Time Machine is a musical voyage through our country’s history, presenting popular songs from our past as the medium to connect to our shared cultural heritage. Hear how Amer-



The Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series continues on Friday, October 16, 2020 with Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle’s American Pop Music Time Machine 1855-1965. The videotaped performance will be broadcast on the Town of Agawam’s public access channel and streamed at 7:00 pm. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ica’s popular songs evolved in the century after the 1855 incorporation of Agawam as an independent town.

Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle develop and present theme-based music and history programs that present songs with cultural insight into times, places and events in American history. Their carefully crafted vocals and accompaniment are true to a song’s era or style and illustrate the evolution of our nation’s culture and history in an informative and entertaining way. Rick’s resume includes 20 years as a staff musician, researcher and program developer at Mystic Seaport Museum. Dawn is responsible for researching and developing program material and creating period-appropriate vocal accompaniment.

Production sponsors for American Pop Music Time Machine - 1855-1965 are the Agawam Democratic Committee and Agawam City Councilor Rosemary Sandlin. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and OMG, Inc. for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly “socially distanced” donation to support efforts to “Give Back to the Community” by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green “Donate” button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Eversource partners with Agawam to launch Energy Efficiency Campaign

AGAWAM – Eversource is working with Agawam this week on the Main Streets energy efficiency initiative to help local, small businesses reduce their energy costs, save money and have a positive impact on the environment. From September 21st until September 25th, energy experts from Eversource-approved contractor, Energy Resources, will be in the community meeting with businesses, scheduling no-cost energy assessments and answering questions about energy-efficient equipment upgrades and improvements.

“Energy efficiency provides businesses of all sizes with a competitive edge and directly impacts their bottom line through energy savings,” said Eversource Vice President of Energy Efficiency Tilak Subrahmanian, “Many small businesses are facing financial hardships right now, and this effort will help connect small business owners with ways to save on their energy costs.”

Agawam is one of 15 communities chosen for this initiative in 2020. In 2019, Eversource visited nine communities and helped small business owners reduce their energy use by more than 2.7 million kWh and save more than \$400,000 as a result of this initiative.

The Main Streets energy efficiency program begins with a no-cost, no-obligation energy assessment identifying energy-sav-

ing opportunities for small businesses, such as new lighting, occupancy sensors, programmable thermostats, refrigeration controls, insulation and more. Some of the improvements, such as installing aerators and spray valves, happen on the spot at no cost to the customer. Larger improvement projects, like HVAC equipment upgrades or the installation of energy-efficient motor controls, are scheduled for a future date. For a limited time, Eversource has increased incentives for a range of energy-efficiency improvements to further offset the cost of upgrades, and interest-free financing is available for any remaining costs.

Local, licensed electricians contracted by Eversource will complete approved projects, ensuring minimal disruption to daily business operations. All contractors are required to follow state-of-the-art health and safety guidelines to minimize the spread of COVID-19, and all high-efficiency products installed as part of the program will include warranties for both materials and labor.

Eversource has delivered postcards with more information about the program to Agawam businesses. For more information about the program and to schedule a free assessment at a convenient time, businesses should contact Eversource’s contractor, Energy Resources, directly at 413-376-8575.

Town forms new partnership with Valley Eye

AGAWAM – Agawam Media Manager, Les Tingley, is pleased to announce a newly formed relationship with Valley Eye Radio - <http://valleyeyeradio.org>. A non-profit, their mission is to help keep our Pioneer Valley neighbors informed and connected to their communities by being a 24/7 accessible source of the local news that otherwise isn’t available to them due to vision loss or other disabilities. This is accomplished by volunteers who read the daily papers and the local weekly and monthly newspapers from every community in the Pioneer Valley.

With encouragement from Mayor Sapelli, and network support from the town IT Department, the radio broadcasts are now running simultaneously with Community Bulletin Board Announcements on Agawam Comcast channel 12. The audio readings are a pleasant change from the previous music, stated Tingley, but most importantly it provides a valuable service to an underserved segment of our community.

Agawam Senior Center Director, Mi-

chael Squindo, is in full support of this collaboration. Michael shared, “this collaboration will serve our community long after COVID is written into our history.” Prior to the impact of COVID19, the Senior Center, in collaboration with the MA Commission on the Blind, began hosting an educational support group for those living with visual impairments. Due to the closing of the center related to COVID this group has not met since March. Thanks to Agawam Media and Valley Eye Radio this new relationship will allow all of our residents to receive news and updates about the area. “I am perhaps most excited that Les has been working with Valley Eye Radio and the COA to prepare audio recordings of our monthly newsletter, The Senior Scene, which will be included in part of this process” stated Squindo.

Agawam Media is a functional unit within the town IT Department that manages Cable Access Television, Streaming Media, as well as other forms of media communications.

Agawam Library offers Boston Children’s Museum weekend passes

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library announces the immediate availability of Boston Children’s Museum weekend passes, graciously provided by the Friends of the Agawam Library. These are available to reserve by Agawam and Feeding Hills residents 18 and older, with a CW/MARS library card in good standing. Each pass is valid only for the date listed and admits 4 people free of charge.

After receiving a library discount coupon from the library, patrons must then reserve their visit online with Boston Children’s Museum.

New Instructions for Patrons:

Visit <https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/ticketing>

Review the directions for timed tickets

Click on the “Discount Programs” & drop down arrow

Click on “Half Price Library Timed Ticket” to book

The date on the Library Discount Coupon must match the date of the patron’s visit.

Once arriving at the Museum, visitors will proceed to the Admissions Scanning Station with their online reservation and the date specific Library Discount Coupon received from the library. Patron can present these digitally on a hand held device or as a paper print out.

Patrons with questions about the online ordering system should contact Orders@BostonChildrensMuseum.org

As venues reopen to the public, it is important to contact the zoo or museum you wish to visit, as each one has a different process for securing a time slot. Please visit the library’s website at www.agawam-library.org for availability.

TESTING ■ from page 1

coming in contact with students as most of HCC’s classes are being held remotely this semester. The exception of this being a non credit EMT training program that requires some face to face training at the HCC Center for Health Education and Stimulation on Jarvis Avenue. Other classes that need face to face learning include clinical conditions such as nursing, radiological tech-

nology, veterinary technician, and medical assisting, though those classes will not be held in the same area that the testing is occurring.

Residents are encouraged to visit the testing site at HCC as it will be held until the end of October and it is free. Additionally, residents can stay in their cars and will have minimal contact with others.

PROJECT ■ from page 1

MassDOT sent an engineer of their own to be on site during the project. Though the final numbers for the cost of the project haven’t come in yet; both Chase and Mayor William Sapelli believe that the costs will be within budget, regardless of the 10 percent contingency.

The construction project is mostly complete as paving, curbing, and the traffic lights have been done. The minor details still to be done include landscaping, graining, seeding, and marking on the pavement; including lanes and the bike lane that still need to be painted.

“One of the good aspects of COVID was that there was less traffic on the road, less people driving through the intersection because that’s a very high traffic area.” Sapelli said. “There are two schools right there with a lot of foot traffic. We have close to 750 students at the junior high that walk.

So it was helpful that the schools were shut down during that time.”

Sapelli believes that the decrease of traffic and foot traffic helped the speed of the construction, as there were fewer cars to direct and the team could do the sidewalk without interruption. The construction workers and engineers were able and willing to work with local businesses and residents when they needed to do paving and curbing outside their buildings.

The center project was more involved than people thought as they did the sidewalks, laid brick for crossing, new curbing, and new traffic lights, along with re-doing the street.

“Everything is done and 99 percent complete with the exception of the cosmetics to be done.” Sapelli said. “It looks good and it’s very effective with what they’ve done. I can’t speak highly enough about it.”

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Opinion

Celebrating the birthday of a local legend, Johnny Appleseed

I have numerous old files from my days at Old Sturbridge Village. Occasionally I'll take a peek at some of the things I've saved. This time I was looking for a few tidbits on heirloom apple varieties, perhaps something that would work its way into a good column. It is the peak of apple season, you know. Instead I found a love story, and while this character isn't known for romance, per se, it sure makes for a good starting paragraph.

We all have heard of Johnny Appleseed. I'm not sure if we learned about him in school or if he is one of those legends that mysteriously becomes etched in our brains. In my mind's eye he is a ragamuffin of sorts, skipping to and fro across the country scattering apple seeds. I imagine how, in no time at all, the apple trees grew to be in full bloom along the cart paths, welcoming settlers as they made their way west. End of story. But who was Johnny Appleseed, and what sent him on a lifelong mission to blanket the Midwest in apple blossoms?

The man we call Johnny Appleseed was born here in Massachusetts in the town of Leominster on Sept. 26, 1774. He is the only person awarded 'folk hero' status here in our state. His given name was John Chapman. It is likely that John and his older sister, Elizabeth, grew up in the care of relatives after his mother's death from tuberculosis in 1776. His father was a Minuteman who fought at Concord and later a Revolutionary soldier in the Continental Army. Some accounts have John heading West as early as the age of 18, other stories claim him to be about 26 years old.

Johnny was a practical nurseryman, more skilled and calculated than my interpretation of him. He was also a good businessman and had a strong Christian faith. Together, these attributes wove John Chapman into a folk hero we know and love. With apple seeds from the cider mills in Pennsylvania in hand, Johnny cleared the woods to set up apple tree nurseries throughout the Midwest. A smart move, considering the law made new settlers plant 50 apple trees on their property during the first year of homesteading. He took payment for the trees he sold in whatever form was available (or not), whether it be in currency, old clothes or even food.

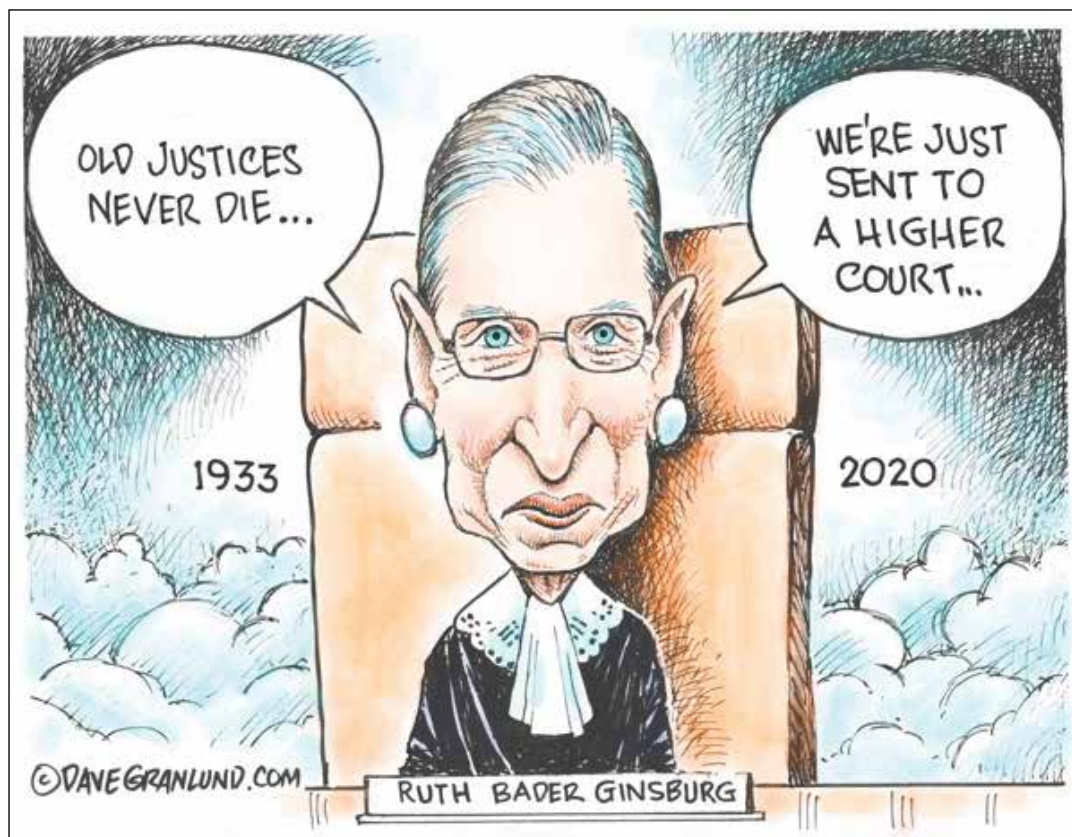
Johnny lived in harmony with nature without ever having a permanent place to call home. In his travels he befriended Native Americans, white settlers and animals, all the while preaching and living his religion peacefully. Reportedly, he knew many Native American languages well enough to converse, and had compassion for both his own and Native American cultures. Some stories make him out to be an herbal healer, as well as a greeter of new settlers with a variety of medicinal plants in hand. Fennel even became known as 'Johnny weed.' It becomes more apparent with each additional piece of research I find that Johnny's lifework was to be of service to others; at the same time he planted apple trees. Johnny Appleseed died at age 70 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A monument marks his gravesite.

So what about the love story? From all accounts Johnny Appleseed traveled alone. A yellowed newspaper article stashed away in my file may give hope that Johnny's journey didn't start out

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid



Letters to the Editor

Students, teachers struggling with hybrid learning

Dear Editor,

The School Committee meeting on Sept. 15 made it plainly apparent that Agawam teachers are being held to impossible standards.

The hybrid model of education is new to everyone - students and teachers alike. Every day, teachers are planning, then being told initiatives have changed, and re-planning - usually with-

out the information they need to do so effectively. They are told to have a cake baked by the next day without being provided the ingredients. Expecting a seamless transition is unreasonable and unfair to those struggling to make that cake palatable to students.

The district has not taken ownership of the many "glitches" that fall on teachers' shoulders

to fix, and as they scramble to do so, teachers have become a lightning rod on a sinking ship. Stop shooting the messenger. After listening to the letters read at the School Committee meeting, full of unfounded rumors and threats, never has the need for education been more apparent.

Connor Kelley

Boldyga best choice For Agawam

Dear Editor:

I'm supporting Representative Nick Boldyga's bid for re-election. These are uncertain times and in my opinion not the time to be sending an inexperienced candidate to Boston to represent the interests of Agawam.

Representative Boldyga has been our State Representative for ten years, he knows his way around the statehouse and has established the contacts with his fellow legislators that are necessary to move bills forward and pass legislation. Representative

Boldyga has served Agawam well. He has been an effective legislator and a friend to Agawam and I urge my friends and fellow Agawam residents to return Nick Boldyga to Boston.

Ron LaRiviere

FAITH MATTERS

"Praise God – Still!"

By Ken Blanchard

Many of the Psalms contained in the Bible are songs of praise, proclaiming that the God we worship is Lord over all creation, over all generations and over all people. Psalm 145 for example tells us to praise God as the supreme ruler who possesses ultimate power. But how do we offer praise? How do we put that into action? How do we praise God in the context of the times we are living in?

In such a time as this, with literal fires and storms ravaging our country, with symbolic fires of protest against systemic injustice raging all around, with mind-boggling unemployment and poverty and food insecurities, not to mention a pandemic that has crippled the entire world in so many ways, many people find comfort in their faith, while it causes others to question the very existence of God. How can those of us on the side of faith offer God praise at such a time as this?

In global times of crisis, as we are witnessing today, it becomes our collective duty as human beings to marshal our resources and figure out ways to respond to the calamities around us. We see this in the search for a vaccine for

COVID-19. We see it in the scientific research regarding climate change. We see it in the hearts of peaceful protestors resisting systemic oppression of any kind. We see it in the love and support of family and friends. These things should help all of us to see that our lives are just temporary, and the important thing for us is to learn how to love each other. We should live our lives in such a way that it is a testimony of praise to God, a witness that others may see by our example, and perhaps cause them to offer God praise as well, even at such a time as this.

There are always going to be storms in life. As believers, we must keep our faith and trust in the sovereign God who alone is worthy of praise. We can't blame God for everything. Psalm 145 tells us God is "slow to anger." God is also referred to as "King" – a ruler whose awesome works and power and abundant goodness and righteousness are proclaimed from one generation to the next – unlike the kings and rulers and leaders of this world. That's because the God we praise is also compassionate and merciful. Verse 8 says, "the Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love."

We must live our lives as a living sacrifice of praise. In this way

we show the way to love others as we love ourselves. How do we care for our creation? How do we care for others? How do we personally speak out for any wrongs that we see? How do we make the world a better place for our children and grandchildren? What is it that is within our power to do? Can we offer up fervent prayers on behalf of others? Can we ourselves act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God, which is all that God requires of us (Micah 6:8)?

Look around. God is everywhere, and calls us to join together. There's plenty to do and there's opportunity to be "God with skin on" for someone, somewhere. All it takes is awareness. Change your focus. Look around and see God everywhere; get involved as the hands and feet of God in a living sacrifice of praise. Many people do not enjoy basic things like food and shelter and safety, whether because of poverty or injustice or violence or disease or just human failing. As children of God, we must endeavor to help in whatever ways we can to be the faithful servants who will offer prayers, time, talents, and treasure in order to bring praise to God's name, from generation to generation, even at such a time as this. Praise God - still! Amen.



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Town will offer shredding event next month

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam has announced that it will host a free document shredding event for residents on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street.

Mayor William Sapelli is pleased to offer residents this event at such challenging time due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“Identity theft is widespread,” said Sapelli. “It is important to destroy any document that may contain information that would make it easy for a criminal to steal your identity. Residents should take advantage of this event and shred anything that may contain a Social Security number, bank account numbers, credit card numbers or other sensitive data. We also ask that you follow all Valley Green Shredding COVID-19 safety protocols.”

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that as many as 10 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Identity theft starts with the misuse of your personal identifying information. Documents such as old bank statements, legal documents, medical records, tax records, receipts/invoices, utility bills, canceled

checks and statements containing credit card numbers, birth dates, signatures, passwords and pin numbers are all items that should be shredded to avoid identity theft. For more information on how to protect your identity, visit the Federal Trade Commission website at www.consumer.ftc.gov

Valley Green Shredding will provide an on-site mobile shred unit to securely and confidentially shred residential documents for free. Residents are asked to limit their confidential documents to 3 standard size boxes or 3 recycling bins. All 3 ring binders and binder clips should be removed. Paper clips, staples, spiral bound notebooks are all acceptable. Due to COVID-19, safety protocols will be in place. Participants will be required to wear a mask, remain in their vehicle, and place all materials in the trunk, bed trunk, or cargo area of the vehicle. Staff will not accept material from the front seats of the vehicle. If you are sick or awaiting COVID test results, please do not attend the event.

For additional information please contact the Department of Public Works at 821-0624.

Cooper’s accepting donations for ‘Dress for Success’

AGAWAM – For a limited time Cooper’s Gifts Apparel Home of Agawam is accepting donations of professional attire for Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts.

Interview-appropriate women’s clothing, shoes and accessories will be collected at Coopers through Sept. 30.

“We invite everyone to Fall-clean their closets and change a life,” said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper’s Gifts Apparel Home.

Donations must be like-new, clean and on hangers. All professional attire is welcome, but DFS has expressed that their greatest current needs are for petite and plus sizes, like-new shoes, especially size 8 and up and purses. No casual clothing, please.

“Just ask yourself ‘Would I wear this to an interview?’ If the answer is yes, Dress for Success can put it to good use,” Gourde said.

The mission of Dress for Success (DFS) is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. They provide each client with professional attire to secure employment, but they are about much more than simply a new outfit. Besides physically equipping the client with apparel and accessories,

their programs furnish her with a confidence that she carries forever and the knowledge that she can actively define her life, the direction she takes and what success means to her.

“We have held clothing drives for DFS for years; our customers consider it a convenience. Especially for people West of the river, it’s easier to bring donations here than up to the DFS Boutique on Boston Road,” Gourde said.

Items may be brought to the shop anytime during the month of September. Cooper’s is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, and is open Tuesdays-Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“This drive coincides with Dress for Success as our September Round-Up charity; so it’s the perfect time to spread the word of their mission and really help them out,” Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store’s Round Up program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the next dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated nearly \$25,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity, may be found on Cooper’s website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/

GARDEN ■ from page 4

that way. The story goes that John Chapman was to be married to Sarah Crawford. Instead, the day set aside for their wedding became the day of her funeral. She was buried in her wedding gown. A bouquet of apple blossoms was to have been her bouquet. Johnny, overcome with grief, decided to go forth and make a monument for his beloved; he would blanket the land in her favorite flower. Fact or fiction, I can’t be sure. Perhaps it is another writer’s attempt to put a fairy tale beginning on a legendary

life. The romantic in me hopes it to be true!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenney@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



In lieu of the Big E, which was cancelled, a Big E Marketplace has been launched. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Big E Marketplace launched

WEST SRPGINFIELD – Eastern States Exposition has launched The Big E Marketplace – a webpage that helps connect its fairgoers to their favorite vendors where they can shop for the goods and services that make the Fair experience unique and exciting. The Marketplace launched last Friday, Sept. 18; what would have been Opening Day of the 2020 Big E and will operate until December 31, 2020.

“It brings me great pleasure to provide our fairgoers with a platform that will connect them to their favorite Big E products,” ESE President and CEO Gene Cassidy said. “It is our hope that The Big E Marketplace will provide our national, international and “mom-and-pop” vendors with the support that they need to return to the 2021 Big E September 17 – October 3.”

Fairgoers will access The Marketplace by visiting www.TheBigE.com and clicking on the icon that will open the “door” to their favorite vendors. Participating businesses are listed by location – Better Living Center, Craft Common, Outdoor Exhibitors, State Buildings, Young Building and

Ireland’s Dingle Peninsula Showcase. Vendors who opted to be part of our Marketplace are included.

The Marketplace is this year’s home away from home for more than 120 of our Big E Vendors. As an example, customers who are hoping to find their favorite steam mop, Western gear or soy candle can click on the Better Living Center. Those who are searching for the perfect gift for a friend or family member can access participating Crafters where they’ll find hand blown glass, homemade ornaments, mittens and more.

Take a virtual trip across the pond to Ireland through the Marketplace where you can visit all your favorite companies that comprise The Big E’s Ireland Dingle Peninsula Showcase.

When a customer clicks on a desired location, it will bring them to the Exposition’s list showing all the participating vendors that are in that location as well as a link to their website, product description and social media pages. If a business does not have a website or social media page, contact information is provided.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Emaciation
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
- Anatomical term
- Tropical starchy tuberous root
- Jewish calendar month
- Round Dutch cheese
- Western Pacific republic
- List of foods
- It can strike the ground
- Drenches
- Some are cole
- ___ Squad
- Expresses emotion
- One point east of due south
- Satisfaction
- Holds nothing back
- Top of the body
- Not well-liked

CLUES DOWN

- Not us
- Helper
- Bleat
- Type of chair
- Jr.’s father
- Necessary for certain beverages
- Hillside
- Dutch painter Gerrit ___
- Gave a new look
- Ancient Greek City
- Confidence trick
- Type of fund
- From an Asian island
- Malay boat
- Western Australia indigenous people
- Cluster on underside of fern frond
- You need it to get somewhere
- The woman

CLUES ACROSS

- Did slowly
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Gland secretion
- Vital to existence
- Aristocratic young women
- Erik ___, composer
- Not young
- Jewish term for “Sir”
- Secondary school
- ___ student: learns to heal
- Regarding
- Highly excited
- Mainly
- Thin, narrow piece of wood
- Cakes
- Biomedical nonprofit
- Dried-up
- One who is symbolic of something
- Body part
- Muslim ruler
- Women from

CLUES DOWN

- Mayflower
- Notes
- It may be green
- Makes less severe
- One from Beantown
- Cavalry sword
- Metric linear unit
- Hawaiian dish
- Yokel
- Dissuade
- Mutual savings bank
- ___ Caesar, comedian
- Primordial matters
- We all have it
- Hermann ___, author of “Siddhartha”
- Historic MA coastal city
- Shady garden alcove
- Small amount
- Horse-drawn cart
- Nocturnal rodent
- Spiritual leader
- Air mattress
- Speaks incessantly
- Auction term
- Atomic #62

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STCC Dental Hygiene clinic makes adjustments during COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD – The Dental Hygiene clinic at Springfield Technical Community College is still offering relatively low-cost cleanings and examinations, but has made adjustments to ensure safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The clinic on the campus of STCC this fall is open to patients Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

STCC will offer four more clinics than usual during the fall semester to allow for social distancing, said Meg Loadholt, a Dental Hygiene associate professor. The college also reduced the maximum number of people allowed in the clinics. There will be fewer students, patients and faculty during each session.

Dental hygiene students, under the direction of licensed dental hygienists and dentists, provide all the treatment as part of their training.

Patients who enter the main lobby of Building 20, where the Dental Hygiene program is housed, must stop at a checkpoint to get their temperature taken and complete



documents providing details about their visit to campus, among other protocols.

If screeners determine there is no risk in allowing them into the building, patients can proceed to the clinic using the main stairway. Patients can use the elevator, but

only one person at a time will be allowed. “To prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and any other pathogenic organisms, the Dental Hygiene clinic will continue its high degree of sterilization and disinfection practices,” Loadholt said. “Specific to

COVID-19, both faculty, staff, and students will wear level 3 surgical masks with face shields.”

Some procedures that pose a risk of spreading the novel coronavirus have been suspended. For example, students will not use ultrasonic scalers, which emit a fine mist, or aerosol. In addition, students will not polish patients’ teeth because the process creates a great deal of splatter.

The Dental Hygiene clinic is accepting new and returning patients.

“Many of our patients had their treatment interrupted and left incomplete during the month of March when the campus closed,” Loadholt said. “For those individuals, our front desk staff is attempting to contact them to determine if they’d like to schedule an appointment to continue their treatment. Since they have already paid the fee, they will not be required to pay again.”

To make an appointment, call (413) 755-4900. For more information about rates and services offered, visit stcc.edu/info/dental-care.

Additional testing site offered in the city

HOLYOKE – Beginning this week, Holyoke will be adding a second “Stop the Spread” free COVID testing site. The site will be located in the city parking lot across from the War Memorial Building and next to the McDonalds at 285 Maple Street. This testing site will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and is for walk-up testing only. Both the walk-thru and drive-thru sites have been extended to run until Sept. 30. Additional information is below:

- This test site is first come, first serve. There are no appointments. Please do not call the Health Department to make an appointment.
- There is no cost for the testing. You do not need a referral, nor do you need to be symptomatic.

- The test style will be the less invasive swab in the lower nostril. The older style that required further insertion of the swab will not be used.
- If you have previously tested positive, DPH and CDC guidelines do not recommend getting retested at this time.
- Turnaround time for results is typically 4 days or fewer.
- If you are acutely symptomatic, particularly if you have a high fever, consider scheduling a test with your Primary Care Physician.
- Dogs are prohibited at both the walk-up and drive-thru testing sites.
- Information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the State can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Springfield Technical High School to hold 6th annual Tech Every Class Homecoming in November

SPRINGFIELD – Over 70 years ago, Springfield’s Technical High School Class of 1947 started holding annual class reunions and have continued that tradition every year since. The first class reunion was held at Hotel Kimball and about 100 classmates attended.

Five years ago, the committee, which was headed up by West Springfield resident Tony DiGiore (Class of ’47), decided that in order to keep the Tech spirit alive and well, they needed to invite other Tech classes to participate in this gala event.

As event chairman, DiGiore, who is 90 years old but still has the enthusiasm and energy of a 16-year-old, came up with the clever acronym to position the challenge and get the message out to all Tech classes by renaming the annual reunion --- TECH EVERY CLASS HOMECOMING.

DiGiore said that last year, 23 different classes representing Classes from 1947 to

1984 attended the annual event. The committee is planning to hold this year’s reunion on Sunday, Nov. 15, open to any graduate of Springfield Technical High School. The reunion will be held subject to Massachusetts Governor Baker’s approval and safety guidelines on COVID-19 issues. Social distancing and masks will be mandatory. The reunion will be held at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets for the buffet dinner are \$38 each. Reservation deadline is Oct. 16, but seating is limited to first come first served. If the event must be cancelled, all prepayments will be refunded. For more information or reservations, call Tony-The-Tiger DiGiore at 413-739-9065 or email digiore1@comcast.net. Founded in 1905, Springfield’s Technical High School closed in 1986.

Baystate Health and its Community Benefits Advisory Councils Issue request for proposals

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health in partnership with its Community Benefits Advisory Councils is issuing a request for proposals for Better Together Grants.

The goal of Baystate Health’s Community Benefits Program’s 2020 Better Together Grants is to bring together health and community-based social service organizations across Baystate’s four hospital service areas to address social determinants of health, improve health outcomes, and reduce health inequities. The aim is to develop approaches that, by targeting the social determinants of health, will improve people’s overall well-being and make our communities healthier places to live, while complementing the health care system’s current services.

Applicants can submit one proposal with the proposed project aligning with the hospital’s priority Social Determinant of Health:

- Baystate Franklin Medical Center: Social Environment
- Baystate Medical Center: Education
- Baystate Noble Hospital: Built environment
- Baystate Wing Hospital: Social environment

For more detailed definitions and examples of interventions for each of the above health priorities, applicants can review the Massachusetts Department of Health Determination of Need Health Priority Guidelines at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/>

[health-priority-0/download](https://www.mass.gov/doc/)

Applicants are asked to carefully review the RFP grant guidelines prior to submitting their Letter of Intent, which is due Friday, Oct. 23, at 11:59 p.m.

A virtual general information session will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. All interested organizations and applicants are encouraged to register for the information session.

For those who cannot attend, the session is being recorded and will be available for access at baystatehealth.org/applyfor-funding.

All applicants who submit a Letter of Intent in October will be invited to a second information session on Nov. 10 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in preparation for their submission of the full application in December. Final applications are due Friday, Dec. 4 at 11:59 p.m. with award decisions to be made in late January 2021.

Funding for the 2020 Better Together Grants RFP is made possible through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Determination of Need Community Health Initiative (CHI) requirements related to the replacement of Baystate Medical Center’s Electrophysiology Catheterization Labs approved in November 2018.

For more information, contact Brittney Rosario at 413-794-1801, or email governmentscommunity@baystatehealth.org.

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Obituaries

Joan Bilodeau

April 24, 1936 ~ August 29, 2020

My mother loved sentiments. Anytime she received a card or note from a friend or loved one she would call and read it to me along with any additional words that the giver had added. It mattered to her how people felt and expressed themselves. I am not a writer, I don't support the greeting card industry, and I am sure if asked she would say these last years I didn't send enough cards, but my mother knew I loved her, and there was no doubt how much she loved me. So it means a great deal now that I find the best last words to honor my mother. Joan Irene Bilodeau, oldest of three children, born in Springfield, April 24, 1936, to the late John and Bella I (LeBlanc) Bilodeau, left us peacefully on Saturday August 29, 2020, after a brave battle. It isn't easy for me to sum up all my mother meant in a short paragraph, but the first words that come to mind are strong, courageous, generous, selfless, and I didn't realize, until the last few years, funny. She graduated Commerce High School in 1954 with a mastery of bookkeeping and began working at Monsanto, West Bank, and finally at IBM, where she proudly worked as a secretary for over 20 years. I have fond memories of going into the office some Saturdays to watch her finish up projects, help her wrap gifts for the annual children's Christmas parties she proudly organized, along with the annual family picnics that she perfected down to the last detail. She loved to plan parties and trips. I recall many perfectly thought out birthday parties and Summer vacations. I always had a friend or two along. We were not well off, but I never went without or knew of the many sacrifices she made for me. She was an amazing seamstress, and made everything from clothes to curtains, for her family and friends. Many a weekend was spent at her sister Annette's M (Harrica) & brother in law James's (Harrica) home, while her beloved nieces, Kathy A(Harrica) & Wendy A (Harrica) and I played, while they sewed and talked into the wee hours. My mom believed in taking care of those she loved, whether it was a thoughtfully chosen gift, or an act of kindness. She selflessly cared for both her father and mother before they passed, and in these last few years has cared for her brother, Richard D (Bilodeau) even through her own most difficult times. My mom had a love of music. Growing up she told me she had always wanted to learn to play the piano, however they couldn't afford one. I remember her joy when she found and joined the Sounds of Music club, and how much of an impact this new group made in her life. From weekly dinners, annual trips to Maine, and even a much deserved Caribbean cruise, she made friendships that extended into family. She eventually became President of the club and enjoyed putting together their monthly newsletters and meetings, planning holiday parties, Summer picnics, and bus trips for all her beloved friends and club members. She was a longtime communicant of St Thomas the Apostle Church in West Springfield. At the young age of 81 my mom took on



new technology and learned to text and joined Facebook in order to keep up with and communicate with us, as well as long lost friends and distant relatives. It made her happy to be able to connect regularly with her niece Elizabeth (Bilodeau), who lives across the country. She would always share jokes with me that she found, and ask me "Did you see this on Facebook"? In the last weeks, it was a blessing for her to receive the many well wishes and prayers, as well as musical tributes from her cherished friends and club members, such as her dearest friends, Richard & Kathy Mitnick, and Ceil Blais, whose kindness and care of her these past few years is a testament to their love and friendship.

Of all the things my mother taught me, the meaning of love, family, and what it means to be a good mother, stand out most. She was fierce in her love of family, especially her long awaited granddaughter, Isabella. She arrived at the hospital within minutes of her birth and a new love began in her new role as "Memere". Isabella M (Hill) She always said you were the best gift she ever got. She loved to make outfits for you and your dolls. She bought out the stores for you at Christmas and birthdays. She read to you, sang to you, rocked you, walked with you, took you to the park, to shows. Taught you to sew, to crochet and so much more. She never missed a play, recital, performance, or any event that you were part of and she was so proud and supportive of all of your accomplishments. I think the most difficult thing she could ever do is leave you. She wished for and envisioned much love and happiness for you. You were and always will be her most cherished, and I know she will be forever watching over and cheering you on. She was an honored grandparent to Abagale (Viens), Joseph (Viens) and Ashlee (Viens) Callahan. She stepped in when needed and gave them another grandparent to love. She loved to celebrate their accomplishments, watch them all grow into young adults, wish them well with school, first jobs, engagements, marriage and dreams for babies. She loved to joke and share sarcasm with her son in law, Ronald F (Viens II), and enjoyed and complimented his cooking regularly, but most of all she was grateful for the love and care she knew you have for her most loved daughter and granddaughter. As for me, her only child. She brought me up, mostly on her own, with courage during a time when that was not in favor. She worked hard, gave up much, so that I would only know love and security. She taught me what family, love and loyalty meant. She was my strength and support when I needed her most and even when I didn't know that I did. I was proud to be your daughter.

She loved us all so well, and we in turn, will miss her profoundly.

LOVE~ A willingness to prioritize another's well-being or happiness above your own.

Memorial contributions may be made in Joan's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-1905 or the Boston Children's Hospital, 401 Park Dr., Suite 602, Boston, MA 02215.

Anthony J. (Tony) Smigelski, Sr.

Anthony J. (Tony) Smigelski, Sr., 101, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. Born in West Springfield, MA, October 1918, he was the son of the late Josef and Marianna (Andryczyk) Smigelski.

A 1937 graduate of Springfield Technical High School, he went on to serve his country in the Pacific Theater during WWII as a Communications Repairman in the Army Air Corps. Following the war, Anthony began his career with the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. as a lineman and repairman, retiring from NYNEX as a test board operator after thirty five years of service.

An avid vegetable gardener, he also enjoyed growing many varieties of flowers through the years, especially proud of his Iris and Dahlia collections. He was a lifelong communicant of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Springfield until its closing in 2018, becoming a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam. He became a member of the Jan Sobieski Society at the age of 16 and went on to become President of the society for over thirty years. He was very proud of his Polish heritage, especially carrying on the holiday traditions of Easter (Swi conka) and Christmas Eve (Wigilia) with his family gathering at his home.

Anthony was given the great honor as serving as the Grand Marshall - Army for the 2015 Agawam Memorial Day Parade. He loved to read, especially stories of the old west and frequently visited the Agawam Public Library.

A loving husband and father, he is survived by his beloved wife of 78 years, Ste-



fania; son Anthony Smigelski, Jr., and wife Claudia of Shushan, NY; daughter Patricia Sniegowski and husband William of Belchertown; son in law Christopher Savard of Agawam; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two great- great grandchildren. He leaves several Godchildren as well as many nieces and nephews, and the friendship of kind and generous neighbors.

Anthony was predeceased by daughter Barbara Savard (2013), and his seven siblings: Victoria Dofter, Mary Davidow, Lottie Witkoski, Sr. Josephine Deodata (Sr. Jo), Felix Smigelski, Nell Bishop, and Tess Monson.

Family and friends were invited to gather Monday September 21, 2020 from 4-7pm in Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home, 985 Main St., Agawam MA. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 beginning at 10:00 AM at the funeral home followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 AM at St John the Evangelist Church, 823 Main St., Agawam. Burial will be in the St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Chicopee.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Agawam Ambulance Service, c/o Agawam Fire Department, 800 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001; Friends of the Agawam Public Library, PO Box 478. Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478; or The Holyoke Soldiers' Home, 110 Cherry Street, Holyoke, MA 01041. To leave a message of personal condolence or for more information, visit www.forastiere.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Bilodeau, Joan

Died: August 29, 2020

Smigelski, Sr., Anthony J.

Died: September 15, 2020

Services September 22nd @ 10:00am
Forastiere Funeral Home



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SPORTS

FALL SPORTS

Away fans not allowed at high school games

Limited attendance will be allowed at most high schools

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – High school athletes returned to the field for tryouts last Friday. The tryouts will continue into this week with games set to begin at the end of next week.

Nearly all of the schools in Western Massachusetts, specifically in and around the Pioneer Valley will be full participants in the Fall 1 season, which will feature all of the fall sports with the exception of football, cheerleading, and unified basketball.

There are some schools that have opted to defer moderate risk sports like girls volleyball and soccer to the Fall 2 season in late February.

While student-athletes will have the opportunity to being

playing games after a six-month layoff from most activity, fans will only be allowed to have limited participation.

David Stratton, a member of the board of directors for the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference, said the PVIAC has issued guidance and agreed that all schools in the membership will only allow for home fans at games to begin with.

Stratton said it will be up to the individual schools to govern how the crowds will be controlled, but

all schools are only allowed to host fans for their own team.

Those crowds will be limited to just 50 people, per the current outdoor guidelines set by Gov. Charlie Baker.

In many cases, players on individual teams will be given a limited number of passes, likely ranging from 1 to 3 per person, and that player will be allowed to give those passes to family or friends to attend the game. Fans who attend the games must socially distance, stay away from the partici-

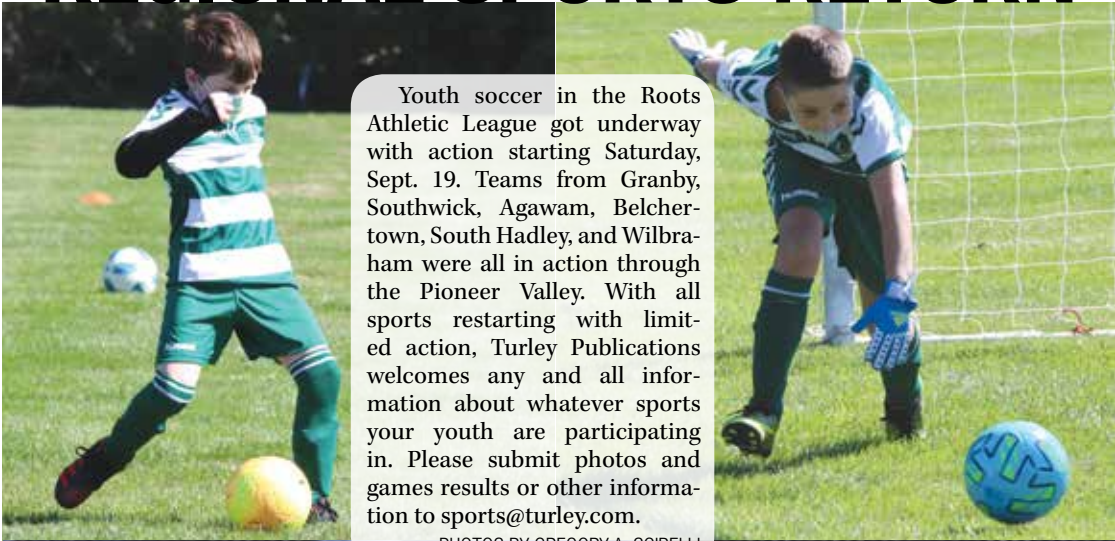
pants, and wear face coverings in order to watch the games. There also could be restricted areas for seating at game sites.

Those fans will not be permitted to travel to away games and will be turned away by other schools.

There are a few schools, either due to staffing, field configuration, or other factors, that are not allowing any fans at all to games. Ware confirmed last Thursday there will be no fans allowed at

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REGIONAL SPORTS RETURN



Youth soccer in the Roots Athletic League got underway with action starting Saturday, Sept. 19. Teams from Granby, Southwick, Agawam, Belchertown, South Hadley, and Wilbraham were all in action through the Pioneer Valley. With all sports restarting with limited action, Turley Publications welcomes any and all information about whatever sports your youth are participating in. Please submit photos and games results or other information to sports@turley.com.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



ATHLETES

Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is starting and Turley Publications is looking forward to getting back out on the field to bring you the high school action for all your favorite teams.

We know this fall season is important to many senior athletes, who watched Class of 2020 lose their entire spring season.

We're asking for help on this upcoming season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

RACING



Belchertown's Chris Buffone captured the street stock event. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Robie clinches modified title, other crowns up for grabs

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Trevor Bleau (Troy, NH) won the race Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway that had eluded him all season. But, while Bleau won the battle, Brian Robie won the war.

With Robie's strong third-place outing in Saturday's NHSTRA Modified main event, the Sunapee star clinched the 2020 track title. The speedway's other

four divisional crowns, however, will all wait to be decided on the final day of the season.

Bleau, the runner-up a week earlier, was one of three first-of-the-season feature winners Saturday. On the fourteenth event of the summer, Emerson Cayer (Contoocook, NH) and C.J. Johnson (Keene, NH) also earned their

RACE | page 9

Sports



Trevor Bleau was a winner in the modified race, his first win of the season. SUBMITTED PHOTO

RACE ■ from page 8

first victory laps of the year.

While Cayer made easy work of scoring Saturday’s 50-lap NHSTRA Battle for The Belt Mini Stock feature, Gordon Farnum – a six-time 2020 feature winner – cruised quietly to a fifth-place finish and, with it, the championship of the multi-track Belt series.

Cameron Houle and Bleau raced under a blanket for the first ten laps of the Modified go-round, with Bleau then using the low groove to take command and never look back. Ben Byrne, needing desperately to make up big ground on Robie, got up for second on lap 25 but had nothing more for Bleau.

Robie, charging from row five, swiped third from Houle on the final corner of the 40-lapper; more than enough to clinch the 2020 Modified crown. He is currently fourth nationally in NASCAR Division 1 points.

Eleven-time LMS winner Aaron Fellows left Saturday’s feature on the hook before a lap had been completed, the victim of someone else’s blunder. That gave Robert Hagar (Windsor, VT) a chance to close the championship points battle entering the season finale, and Hagar took full advantage of the opening.

Hagar stormed past Justin Littlewood on lap two and roared off to his second win of the summer. Teen star Camdyn Curtis equaled his season’s best in the runner-up slot, and Littlewood came home third.

In the Mini Stock 50-lapper, Cayer took the lead from Nathan Wenzel on lap 12 and quickly social-distanced himself from the pack to score his first Monadnock win of the summer. Louie Maher, the 2019 track titlist, was second, but had nothing for Cayer. Wenzel, strong in third, went home 20 points behind Farnum.

Jeff Asselin, seventh on the night, stayed out of trouble to leapfrog Jake Puchalski for top 2020 Mini Stock rookie honors, taking a two-point advantage in that competition into next Saturday’s season finale. Gordon Farnum (Fitzwilliam, NH) won the 2020 Mini Stock Battle for the Belt Championship.

The hard-charging Curtis twins, Jaret and Chase, came into Saturday’s Street Stock feature tied atop the points parade. Number three man Chris Buffone (Belchertown, Ma) needed a statement run to keep his championship hopes alive, and he accomplished exactly that.

Rocketing into the lead on lap two, Buffone sailed to his third win of the summer, getting the job done with his uncle, Tommy O’Sullivan, glued to his bumper. Last season’s top gun, Dave Greenslit, was strong in third and, at the end of the night, Chase Cur-

tis went home two points ahead of brother Jaret, with Buffone still in the hunt, 28 back.

Firing from row three, C.J. Johnson took control of the Pure Stock feature on lap three and then checked out on the field to score his first win of the summer. Chris Davis, needing to make big inroads on points leader Mike Douglas, took second on lap five but, with Douglas quickly pulling up to his bumper, could make only a minimal gain.

Douglas enters next Saturday’s Championship Night event 36 points ahead of Davis, who, still mathematically alive in the title hunt, is the only 2019 champion capable of repeating that success.

Monadnock Speedway will conclude its pandemic-abbreviated 2020 racing season when it hosts its annual Championship Night races – with four divisional crowns still undecided, and many extras scheduled – next Saturday, September 26. Post time for that event is 2 p.m.

MONADNOCK SPEEDWAY
SEPTEMBER 19 RESULTS:

Pure Stocks - CJ Johnson, Chris Davis, Mike Douglas, Dylan Adams, Jimmy Zellman, Cory Lofland, JD Stockwell, Nick Houle, Jake Bosse, Jason Leray, Tucker Houle, Ryan Lawliss, Matt Lambert, Trevor Carey, Brandon La-voie

Late Model Sportsman - Robert Hagar, Camdyn Curtis, Justin Littlewood, John Meany, James Beck, Nancy Muni-Ruot, Chris Balls, Cole Littlewood, Dan Comeau, Ronald Laperche, Aaron Fellows, Tyler Lescord (DNS)

Mini Stocks - Emerson Cayer, Louie Maher, Nathan Wenzel, Kevin Cormier, Gordon Farnum, Pat Houle, Jeff Asselin, Tim Leblanc, Bill Chaffee, Jake Puchalski, Kevin McKnight, Ray King, Dan Sweeney, Kevin Clayton, Matt Sonnhalter, David Thibodeau (DNS)

Mini Stock Battle for the Belt Champion - Gordon Farnum

Street Stocks - Chris Buffone, Tommy O’Sullivan, Dave Greenslit, Mike Radzuik, Chase Curtis, Jaret Curtis, Hillary Renaud, Ed Brehio III, Robbie Streeter, Tim Wenzel, Bryan Granger, Paul Barnard (DNS)

NHSTRA Modifieds - Trevor Bleau, Ben Byrne, Brian Robie, Cameron Houle, Brian Chapin, Russ Hersey, Todd Patnode, Matt Kimball, Kim Rivet, Scott MacMichael, Solomon Brow, Andy Major, Eric Leclair, Kevin Pittsinger, Jason Houle, Brad Zahensky, Cory Plummer

Mutiny’s Howarth signs with Pride

LUDLOW, MA - UWS Player of the Year, Kate Howarth, has signed a professional contract with the Orlando Pride of the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL). With the recent departure of US National Team star Alex Morgan to Tottenham Hotspur and Taylor Kornieck on loan to German club MSV Duisburg, Howarth is among a forwards group that includes Brazilian legend Marta and former USWNT member Sydney Leroux.

Howarth, who played collegiately for the University of Miami (2009-2012) is the all-time leading scorer for the New England Mutiny of United Women’s Soccer (UWS). This will be the second go-around in NWSL for Howarth after having been discovered off the New England Mutiny roster in 2012 by the Boston Breakers. Howarth returned to the Mutiny in 2014 where she would be a fixture at the forward position for the next six years for the western Mass-based club. She tallied a club record 69 goals for the Mutiny. Along with her 17 career assists, Howarth also tops the list at 155 points scored for the New England franchise that was established in 1999.

“I can confidently say that I would not be where I am today if I had not been asked to play for the New England Mutiny. I would not have been given a chance with the Boston Breakers and would not have been able to develop as a player to get to this point. Joe (Ferrara, Mutiny team owner) has created a competitive environment that has drawn high level players across New England year after year,” stated Howarth.

At age 29, a professional career for Howarth in the NWSL seemed a longshot, but the Mutiny captain amassed a stellar campaign last season for the Mutiny that could not be overlooked by NWSL scouts as she was invited to pre-season camp by five NWSL teams before settling in Orlando.



Kate Howarth has been signed by the Orland Pride of the NWSL. She was a standout striker for the New England Mutiny. FILE PHOTO

Howarth finished the season with 20 goals scored and 4 assists.

“What made Kate’s season extraordinary was that she scored in every regular season game and both playoff games. Whatever metrics an organization uses to evaluate a player they can toss those out the window when someone can produce like that against high quality competition. Kudos to Orlando for signing Kate as they will find her passion and work ethic contagious. Her impact on the Mutiny organization and to me personally is indescribable” added Ferrara.

Howarth was selected to the

UWS Team of the Week on five occasions in 2019 and currently stands as the only player in UWS to top 100 points scored.

“UWS gave me a place to develop, learn, and become the player I am today. The league gave me the opportunity to play with so many high-level players throughout the years, all of which taught me things that I have taken with me. Above anything, I think it gave me the chance to learn how to be a leader and instilled the confidence I needed to walk out with my new teammates today,” added Howarth.

GAMES ■ from page 8

games to start the fall season. The Ware Athletic Department is hopefully to develop a plan as the season progresses so some fans can be welcomed back to fields.

The rules will be in place for at least the fall season, and Stratton said unless a specific school makes a more stringent restriction, a limited number of fans will be allowed indoors to watch volleyball games as well.

Stratton said participants in the contests, such as players, coaches, and officials, do not count toward the 50 restriction for gatherings.

The MIAA has set an Oct. 1 date for the start of games. There will be approximately 10 to 12 contests for soccer, field hockey, and girls volleyball, allowing parents approximately 5 to 6 chances to see games this season.

Parents and athletes should check with their specific high school’s athletic department for details on that school’s fan rules.

Tri-County to hold golf tournament

BELCHERTOWN – The Tri-County Baseball League, the premier adult baseball league in Western Massachusetts, will hold its annual golf tournament at Mill Valley Golf Links in Belchertown on Saturday, Oct. 3 with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$80 per player. If you’re unable to play, there are donations and hole sponsorships available. The tournament will include lunch during the round, raffle, closest to the pin, longest drive, and a special 50/50 drawing. For more information, go to www.tri-countybaseball.net. The registration form is on that website.



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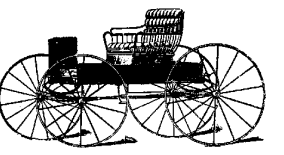
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Massachusetts RMV renews over 163,000 licenses, IDs online during REAL ID promotion

Customers who renew a Standard license or ID online will have \$25 REAL ID upgrade fee waived upon future return visit to a Service Center in 2021

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) continues to encourage all eligible customers to renew their Standard Massachusetts driver's license or Massachusetts ID card online at Mass.Gov/RMV in order to qualify for a free upgrade to a REAL ID credential in 2021. This promotional opportunity, authorized and extended by Executive Order, will remain in effect until Massachusetts' State of Emergency is lifted to provide customers more time and flexibility to conduct transactions and to support the RMV's ongoing efforts to implement social distancing protocols while limiting in-person service center visits to keep customers and staff safe.

Customers are eligible to renew online and take advantage of this offer up to one year in advance of the expiration date printed on their license or ID, or up to two years after the expiration date. Customers will not be able to seek their free REAL ID upgrade until at least six months after the State of Emergency is lifted.

The RMV continues to see a dramatic increase of online renewals by customers during the pandemic and this promotional opportunity period. More than 163,000 online renewals were completed since promotion began June 12, compared to just 49,600 over the same time period in 2019. In August 2020, there were over 62,000 online credential renewals, compared to just 15,739 in August 2019. The RMV has bolstered back office support efforts to accommodate this continuing increased demand.

Beginning in mid-August, limited in-person license renewal appointments became available in Service Centers for customers. The RMV suspended those in-person transactions due to the pandemic and applied multiple extensions to expiring licenses and IDs as outlined below. The RMV asks that those who can renew online please do so and preserve these limited appointments for those individuals with credentials expiring in September 2020 who cannot, especially if their license or ID currently benefits from an extension.

Qualifying customers who complete their renewal online and wish to upgrade to a REAL ID for free will have to wait until at least six months after Massachusetts' State of Emergency is lifted to visit an RMV Service Center. Customers currently do not need a federally compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights prior to Oct. 1, 2021, as the federal government delayed the compliance effective date by one year. The fee for renewing a non-commercial standard or REAL ID license is \$50, while the fee for upgrading to a standard or REAL ID card is \$25. The typical \$25 upgrade / amendment fee will be waived under these qualifying circumstances.

Obtaining an initial federally compliant REAL ID requires customers to visit a Service Center in-person to present verifying documents. The RMV introduced this initiative and fee waiver pursuant to Executive Order 39 which was issued by Governor Baker on June 12 and was subsequently

extended through Executive Order 47 on August 11, in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to encourage social distancing and limit unnecessary travel by reducing the need for many customers to visit a Service Center. This also allows for the prioritization of essential in-person transactions, which remain by appointment only.

Customers should take the following steps to determine their online renewal eligibility and qualify for this offer:

Visit Mass.Gov/RMV, login to their "myRMV" account, and find out if they are permitted to renew online.

Renew online - their new standard license or ID card will be sent via U.S. mail.

The cost for renewing a driver's license is \$50. The cost for renewing an ID card is \$25. These costs are the same for both a standard or REAL ID license or ID card. The cost for upgrading or amending a license or ID card outside of their renewal cycle is \$25, which will be waived for participating, eligible RMV customers.

Customers who renew online will have to wait until at least six months after Massachusetts' State of Emergency is lifted to make an appointment for a REAL ID and have their \$25 upgrade / amendment fee waived. Anyone who holds a valid U.S. passport or other federally compliant form of identification may never need an RMV-issued REAL ID.

As a service to its members, AAA continues to issue REAL ID credentials for their members only and members should make an appointment before visiting a AAA location.

Limited in-person license renewal reservation appointments are available in RMV Service Centers for customers. The RMV asks that those who can renew online please do so, especially if their license or ID currently benefits from an extension, thus preserving these appointments for those individuals with credentials expiring in September 2020 who cannot renew online.

While the RMV has previously announced the below automatic extensions to certain expiring licenses and ID cards, all eligible customers are encouraged to take advantage of this offer by renewing online up to one year prior to their expiration date:

Driver's licenses and ID cards that expired or were set to expire in March, April, and May 2020 have been extended until September 2020.

Driver's licenses and ID cards that expired or were set to expire in June have been extended until October 2020.

Driver's licenses and ID cards that expired or were set to expire in July have been extended until November 2020.

Driver's licenses and ID cards that will expire in August have been extended until December 2020.

All RMV customers are encouraged to visit the RMV Online Service Center or www.Mass.Gov/RMV to renew their license or ID card, and complete one of over 40 other transactions available online, by mail, or by phone.

For details on these and other credential expiration date extensions and additional information on RMV service offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.mass.gov/rmv or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20A0068AD
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6
In the matter of:
Evan Lachlan Moren
formerly
Evan Lachlan Denardo Moren**

To: any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth

A petition has been presented to said court by:
David E Cilley of Agawam, MA
Holly R. Moren Cilley of Agawam, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Evan Lachlan Moren

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Springfield** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **10/15/2020**.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 15, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

9/24/2020

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Quarantine stories still sought by Agawam Public Library

We are currently living through a historical time. We are experiencing things that people have never experienced before. The Agawam Library would like to learn what this time has been like for you. We are asking people up to age 17 to answer a few questions to document what they're going through during this time.

People up to age 17 are encouraged to answer the questions found at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/teens/digital-archive-for-kids-up-to-age-17/>

When we are done collecting the responses they will be bound into a book available for viewing at the Agawam Library. No names will be attached to entries, only initials. Also, since things have been changing so often it's okay to fill it out more than once.

The questions that will be asked are:

Some words that describe how I feel about having to stay home are:

Three things I like to spend my time doing are:

I am most grateful for:

The biggest change for me has been:

My favorite activity to do inside is:

The three things I'm most excited to do when this is over are:

Draw a picture about how you feel being at home:

If you have questions about the survey please contact Pamela Weingart, Children's Librarian at the Agawam Public Library at pweingart@agawamlibrary.org or call the Agawam Library Children's Room at 413-789-1550 ext. 3.



Quarantine stories from Agawam's youth are sought by Agawam Public Library. Contact the library for more information on submitting your story. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pioneer Valley Planning advises public to be septic smart

Staff report

REGION – If your household relies on a septic system for disposal of sanitary sewage, September is a great time to make sure all is properly functioning.

Septic systems are typically designed to treat wastewater from your home before it filters into the soil and replenishes the groundwater that feeds local lakes and rivers, and in many cases, drinking water supply wells. So proper function is not only important to avoiding major problems in your household, but also to ensuring clean drinking water and ensuring fishable-swimmable rivers and lakes.

Members of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, a regional coalition of 19 municipalities plus UMass Amherst, encourage all septic system owners to take the following five steps recommended by MassDEP:

- Inspect your system at least once every three years. A reputable, permitted septage hauler can advise you on the frequency of pumping needed for your particular household. For homes with garbage disposals, pumping once a year is recommended.
- Limit the use of your kitchen sink garbage disposal and flush only human waste down your toilets. This will keep your system working optimally and reduce the overall frequency of maintenance.
- Properly dispose of hazardous or toxic substances, such as medicines, household chemicals, solvents, etc. These substances

are not treated by your septic system and contaminate groundwater.

- Avoid driving over, parking on, or doing construction over your system and tank as this can impact proper function of your system.
- Conserve water to reduce the amount of liquid your system has to process, and thereby extend its lifespan.

Pumping a septic tank is critical to ensuring that the system properly treats waste. Accumulated solids at the bottom of a tank can prevent the system from doing its job. If a septic system is not in good working order, it can also flood and cause sewage backup into yards or homes.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Principal Environmental Planner Patty Gambarini, who facilitates the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee notes, "While you can imagine how harmful raw sewage could be to your property, it is also important to note the harm a faulty septic system can cause to drinking water and local waterways."

More information on maintaining septic systems is available at the state website, <https://www.mass.gov/guides/caring-for-your-septic-system>, or the Think Blue Connecticut River website, <https://thinkblueconnecticutriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MaintainingSeptic-Updated-for-PV.pdf>

For more information contact Pat Beaudry, pbeaudry@pvpc.org or 413-210-4658

ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 392 calls for service from Sept. 14 to Sept. 20 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

There were no arrests recorded in the Town of Agawam this past week.

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Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 18th.

Deadline for submissions is October 22nd.

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

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